

The Friends of the Coyote Valley Greenbelt (FROG)

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The Greenbelt is now part reality and part dream...our mission is to realize the dream.

March 12, 2005

Mayor Ron Gonzales and Councilman Forrest Williams
Chair and Co-Chair
Coyote Valley Specific Plan Task Force

Gentlemen and Task Force Members

The Friends of the Coyote Valley Greenbelt (FROG) offer the following comments regarding issues that should be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report to be prepared for the Coyote Valley Specific Plan.

1. The EIR should address potential impacts, both negative and positive, of re-routing streams and waterways, re-location of existing habitat areas and creation of new ones, and other aspects of project activities in the Greenbelt area. Any other activities to be implemented in the Greenbelt area as mitigations for environmental impacts of development in the area north of Palm Avenue should also be addressed. Negative impacts on the realization of the Greenbelt vision resulting from these changes should be mitigated.
2. The relationship of the cross-valley aqueduct and the PGE transmission lines to the proposed Greenbelt and project activities therein should be addressed.
3. The impacts from increased traffic and roadway improvements on realizing the Greenbelt vision should be addressed. FROG urges that negative impacts be minimized and mitigated and that Hale Avenue be kept as a 2 lane road.
4. Potential negative impacts at the interface between the urban land area and the Greenbelt should be addressed. Possible mitigations include: on the urban side of the interface, lower residential densities and larger lot sizes, and other low intensity non-residential uses/activities. On the rural edge of the interface, buffer areas with less noxious rural uses and appropriate landscaping. Right-to Farm regulations can serve to protect agriculturists from unreasonable urban complaints.
5. The EIR should address the loss of agricultural land resulting from Mid-Coyote Valley development. The EIR should provide mitigation through acquisition of lands and conservation easements in the Greenbelt area south of Palm Avenue. In addition, mitigation should provide funding for (1) the implementation process/organization for acquiring and managing the lands and easements, as well as (2) programs to promote sustainable agriculture in the Greenbelt, along with complementing activities. \$15 million dollars over the life of the project is not considered to be adequate funding.
6. The EIR should not include any land use alternative for the Greenbelt allowing further land development inconsistent with current County and City policy.

Sincerely,



Trixie Johnson,
FROG Representative